

# 150 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE MOVING TOWARD A COMPLETE CITY

**F**OR MORE THAN 150 YEARS, Bloomington has striven to be A Complete City – where neighborhoods and businesses thrive and improvements are constantly made. For millennia Native Americans lived on the oak savannahs and prairies. In the mid-1800s, missionaries like Gideon Pond settled here. After WW II, as Bloomington's population began to grow, leaders envisioned a community beyond the farm fields and traditional residential suburbs of their times.

These early efforts formed a great foundation for a better, more sustainable Bloomington. Strategic planning, with resident input, developed new directions for Bloomington. As the City implements these long-term goals, the focus will be on City services, housing, education, employment, recreation, retail and transportation.

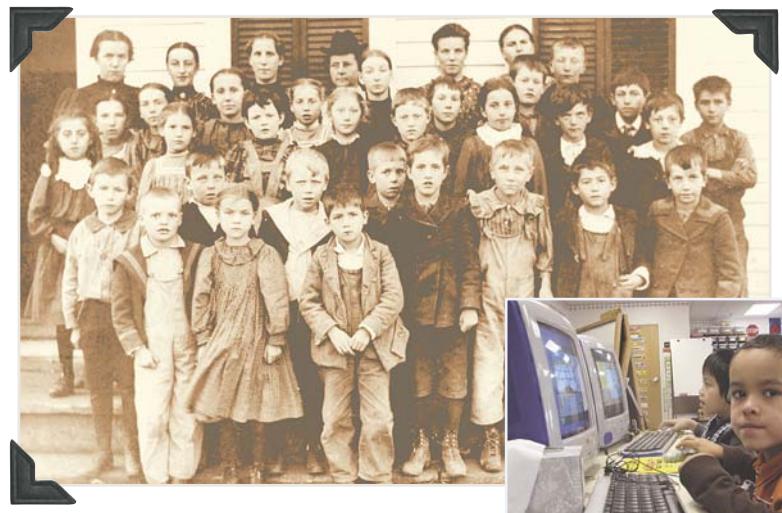
Here's a look back at how Bloomington has grown since the 19th century.

## STRONG HOUSING

**O**ne of the oldest homes in Bloomington is a **FARMHOUSE BUILT BY RENE BAILLIF** in 1875, see photo right. It is still standing at 106th Street and Humboldt Avenue.

**Today** ramblers constitute about half of Bloomington's housing stock. During the 1950s' population explosion, these one-level houses became ubiquitous in the city. Virtually all of those **RAMBLERS** are still in use and residents are looking at them in different ways. Seniors see the benefits of a one-level, accessible floor plan; younger families see them as fashionable and functional.

As Baby Boomers retire, the demand for senior housing has been rapidly escalating. **Senior independent living units** total more than 1,800 in Bloomington.



## SOLID EDUCATION

**E**DUCATION HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT PART of Bloomington life since the very **FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOLHOUSE** was built near France Avenue and Old Shakopee Road in 1859. By the turn of the 20th century, there were six rural schools with more than 200 students in grades 1 - 8.

**Today** Bloomington School District's total enrollment is 10,300. Its mission is to be an "educational leader, developing in all learners the ability to thrive in a rapidly changing world."

The District believes all children, from all socioeconomic, ethnic and racial backgrounds can attain the knowledge, skills and ethical values that will prepare them to succeed and contribute. Schools **INTEGRATE TECHNOLOGIES** that enable teachers and students to link classroom learning with a world of information. This is made possible by **community support** of last fall's Operating Levy for Teaching and Learning, and Capital Projects Levy for Technology referendums.

## QUALITY RECREATION

**I**N THE LATE 1800s, Bloomington didn't have dedicated trails, playground equipment or parks, so people had to make their own fun, like the **DESCENDANTS OF GIDEON POND** sliding down a hill on their toboggan in the 1920s.

**Today** we've come full circle as residents are enjoying more active lifestyles. In 2007, many recreation facilities in the City were updated. **BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN'S RINK ONE** received a new energy-efficient refrigeration system, extended players' boxes and seamless glass. In 2008, the City will be making improvements to **seven athletic fields** at Dred Scott, Valley View and Smith Park. The changes will improve safety and the quality of play areas. Bloomington is currently finalizing an **Alternative Transportation Plan** to provide a comprehensive system for inter- and intra-city travel and to promote more active lifestyles for residents, workers and visitors.



Photo courtesy of Steve St. Martin.

## EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS GROWTH

**F**ARMING WAS THE MAIN OCCUPATION at the turn of the 20th century. Frank Joseph Pahl settled in Bloomington around 1905, built a home at 83rd and Lyndale and **FARMED 180 ACRES WITH HIS FIVE SONS**.

**Today** about 8,000 people work in 2 million square feet of office space in the Normandale Lake area where **Duke-Weeks' Norman Point II**, a 332,000 square-foot office tower at 5600 American Boulevard West, was completed and construction began on **United Properties' 8200 Norman Center Drive tower**. This 285,000 square-foot office building is scheduled for completion by late summer 2009. A second, 237,000 square-foot, 8-story office building at **MarketPointe II** on the north side of I-494 between France and Normandale is scheduled for completion in fall 2008.

Many developers are increasing the efficiency of buildings, minimizing the use of energy and materials to reduce their impact on the environment. All three developments mentioned are currently or will be **Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified** by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Manufacturing in Bloomington has gone through several changes during the last 100 years, from blacksmith's forge to semiconductor foundries to high-tech industries. Approximately 10 percent of the city's 94,000 jobs are in manufacturing, 14 percent in retail and 8 percent in hotel and food services.



Photo courtesy of Greg Faust.

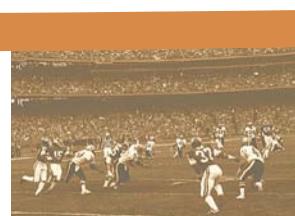
## HISTORY SPOTLIGHT

**I**N 1953 the first traffic signal was installed at the "very dangerous" intersection of 98th Street and Lyndale Avenue.

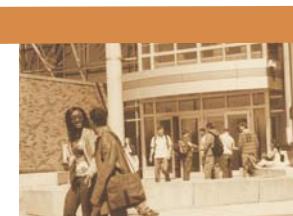
Today, Bloomington has more than 147 traffic signals. In keeping with the City's commitment to sustainability, more than 75 percent of the incandescent lights in these signals have been replaced with more energy-efficient LED lights over the last decade.



1960  
Ward's Southtown Center is built.



1961  
First regular season Vikings game is played on September 17 at the Metropolitan Stadium.



1968  
Normandale Junior College opens with 1,358 students.